



PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

21 August 2002

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said the State Government is dragging its feet in announcing guidelines for Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) at a time of great urgency.

Minister for Government Enterprises Pat Conlon said in Port Lincoln in early June that the guidelines would be announced in a couple of weeks.

When questioned again during the Budget Estimates, Mr Conlon said that PPPs were the responsibility of the Treasurer but that he "thought they (the guidelines) were on the point of being released".

In answer to a question from Mrs Penfold this week in Parliament, Treasurer Kevin Foley said the guidelines would be available "soon".

Mrs Penfold said setting up PPPs had become a matter of extreme urgency due to the water situation on Eyre Peninsula.

Mrs Penfold said she was angry at being fobbed off by Government Ministers.

"During questions on the Budget, I asked Mr Conlon when the guidelines would be provided for these PPPs to enable private enterprises to become involved in the provision of desalination plants for Eyre Peninsula.

"Mr Conlon sidestepped the issue in his reply. Now Mr Foley simply refers back to Mr Conlon's reply as if we are all on a merry-go-round," she said.

Mrs Penfold said she had been given no assurance that PPPs would apply to desalination plants.

"The very low recharge to aquifers expected this winter makes the need for desalination plants on Eyre Peninsula a matter of increasing urgency.

"If the underground basins are drawn too low seawater will be sucked into them, leaving Eyre Peninsula - a region that contributes \$1 billion of state income - without a potable water supply.

"Many people outside Eyre Peninsula do not realise Eyre Peninsula is not connected to the Murray River.

"Private enterprise has expressed interest in being involved however the government's ineptitude and lackadaisical attitude may be depriving this region of a solution to our urgent problems," she said.

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15 August 2002

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold asked the Minister for Government Enterprises, Pat Conlon, to facilitate guidelines for Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) as a matter of urgency.

PPPs use private enterprise funds to build public infrastructure such as schools and hospitals.

Mrs Penfold said PPPs would also enable private enterprises to become involved in the provision of desalination plants on Eyre Peninsula.

"This would overcome the restrictions on development that are now evident in our region, with the flow-on effect of increasing the state revenue base and income," she said.

Mr Conlon said he understood that the guidelines substantially were ready for release.

"If we can find a way to make PPPs work in the public interest on Eyre Peninsula we will seek to do it," he said, in response to Mrs Penfold's question.